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S E C R E T SECTION 01 OF 03 NEW DELHI 002606
SIPDIS

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TAGS PHUM, PREL, PTER, IN, PK, Human Rights

SUBJECT: ICRC FRUSTRATED WITH INDIAN GOVERNMENT

Classified By: DCM Robert O. Blake, Jr. for Reasons 1.4 (B, D)

11. (S) Summary: In a April 1 confidential briefing on GOI detention centers in Kashmir, ICRC XXXXXXXXXXXX described to D/Polcouns torture met Interaction

13. (S) ICRC has been active in India for 23 years, but signed its first and only MOU in 1995, XXXXXXXXXXXX said. Since the last ministerial ir
14. (S) According to XXXXXXXXXXXX, a MEA Note Verbale from January 30 stated that the GOI values its relations with the ICRC, and also its inst Detention Center Visits

15. (S) ICRC staff made 177 visits to detention centers in J&K and elsewhere (primarily the Northeast) between 2002-2004, meeting with 1491 det GOI Points to Improvements

16. (S) XXXXXXXXXXXX reported that during recent ICRC interactions with the GOI, officials have maintained that the human rights situation in F General Observations

17. (S) While acknowledging these improvements, XXXXXXXXXXXXmade a number of additional observations based on ICRC experience in Kashmir that i -- There is a regular and widespread use of IT and torture by the security forces during interrogation; -- This always takes place in the prese Trend Lines Constant

18. (S) XXXXXXXXXXXX showed us two graphs depicting data obtained from interviews conducted during the past two years, with lines and bars trac Next Steps

19. (S) The ICRC official indicated that his organization would seek another Roundtable with the MEA and MHA between April and June. The ICRC N Bright Spot

110. (S) XXXXXXXXXXXX said the one bright spot in ICRC activities was with the security forces. Staff have conducted more than 300 sessions wit COAS: Velvet Glove, Iron Fist

111. (C) In a separate but related development, the media reported that COAS LTG JJ Singh made military discipline issues the centerpoint of a Comment

112. (S) The fact that ICRC reversed its practice of the last several years to provide this briefing to us reflects its frustration with the ME